

# TDOC Newsline

TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

Summer

2004

## *Southeast Regional Set to Expand*

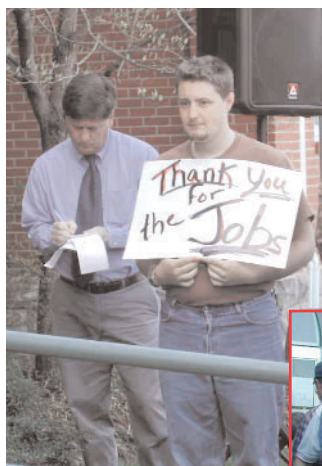
STSRC is on the verge of a major expansion. Governor Bredesen made the announcement along with Commissioner White, on the steps of the Bledsoe County courthouse. The prison currently houses nearly a thousand inmates. Once the expansion is complete the prison will be more than twice that size. Governor Bredesen said, "The project will not only provide the Department of Correction with additional beds that are greatly needed in the eastern portion of the state, but will also serve as an economic stimulus for the region."

The expansion will create at least 250 new jobs, and the local water system will undergo significant upgrades, which will serve the prison and the greater community. "I commend the Governor on his decision," said Commissioner Quenton White. "The expansion at Southeast makes sense for the department and the state for a number of reasons. The fact that this project will bring jobs to the area and help folks on the plateau get access to the water they need makes it a decision we can all feel good about."

The expansion will cost approximately \$102 million, far less than the other sites being considered. Construction on the expansion is expected to begin as early as next winter with a completion date of 2007. ■



Commissioner Quenton White



Governor Phil Bredesen

## *Shift Meetings Make a Comeback*

Over the past year, many of you have approached Commissioner White about reinstating daily roll call meetings. Some of you may recall that in the early 80's, the briefings were discontinued as a cost saving measure. Starting July 1st, each shift will have a **weekly** roll call meeting. During this time, shift commanders will have an opportunity to pass along pertinent information and listen to concerns from employees. It's the Commissioner's hope that the meetings will foster better communication at the institutions and help employees feel more connected to the day to day operations of each facility. ■



### Inside this Issue

Commissioner's Corner	....p. 2
Service Award	.....p. 2
Remembering	.....p. 3
Officer Hyatt	
Statewide News	.....p. 4/5

## Commissioner's Corner

As we enter a new season, I want to thank all of you for your dedication and commitment to this department every day. I could not do this job without you, and I take this brief opportunity to unveil one of my top priorities for 2004.

Inmate healthcare continues to be a heavily debated topic, both in Tennessee and across the nation. During 2004, the department will focus a great deal on the state of inmate healthcare in Tennessee, particularly working to improve the delivery of our services. In conjunction with the Correctional Medical Services (CMS) team, I have created a joint healthcare task force that will help to identify operational issues and enhance patient care. The task force, which comprises members of the CMS and the department's staff, will assist me in identifying problem areas and developing a long-range plan for healthcare services. In line with our goal to address the provision of care, I have asked the health administrators at each institution to prepare a detailed report on the state of inmate health and its challenges. These reports will help me to assess the improvements and resources necessary to make a difference.

As the inmate population grows, so must the range of services we offer. This is particularly true in relation to our aging inmate population. Increasingly inmates are living longer and have unique healthcare needs. Consideration has been given to requesting funding to erect a 300-bed expansion to DeBerry Special Needs Facility in Nashville that would be used for skilled nursing care, end of life treatment and hospice care, and other areas of treatment that fall in these critical areas. The time has come for us to explore ways for our terminally ill inmates to live and die with dignity and humanity, while restricting costs to the taxpayer. These discussions are still in the infancy stages, but they are something we must pursue.

Like the private sector, our Health Services Division is also faced with a challenge of nursing recruitment and retention. TDOC Clinical Recruiter Ingrid Brown is in the process of developing recruitment and retention strategies that will help resolve some of those shortages. In order to provide care, we must be able to find and keep good nurses.

I want to ensure that before problems exist we have solutions. In this regard, we need to remain open minded to change and forward thinking in our approach. Please work with me in the months ahead to be part of these solutions.■



## Bill Lutche Celebrates 30 Years with TDOC

30 years with TDOC... and he's still smiling! For those of you who didn't already know, Bill Lutche in the legal services division hit the 30-year mark in October of last year. He was inadvertently left out of the service awards presentation that was held in December. Bill, we hope you'll forgive us. Bill has a Masters degree in Public Administration, and is a Certified Legal Assistant. In his spare time he enjoys spending time with his family, refereeing high school and college soccer games, and ballroom and square dancing. We appreciate all that you've done and continue to do for TDOC.■



## Good-Bye, Cherry

After 18 years of dedicated service, TPW Warden Cherry Lindamood is leaving the department to accept a job with Corrections Corporation of America.



Lindamood has served as the warden for Tennessee's largest women's prison since the summer of 2001. Under her direction, volunteer programs have flourished and the child visitation wing was completed, illustrating TDOC'S desire to lessen the impact of incarceration on children. Good luck in your new endeavors, Cherry. We will miss you!■

## MIS Award

Congratulations to the department's Management Information Systems division on winning an award for Outstanding Utilization of Information Technology. The award was given out in December for the "e-Tomis" project. Those of you who've used the system will notice that it is a more modern and user-friendly version of what the department had been using for years. Project leader Bill Vincent credits his co-workers Wayne Sisk, Steve Ramsey, Rod Cook, Bonnie Vonnegut, Robert Chick, Terry Groves, Ephrem Tekle, Bruce Coates and Tommy Vance for making "e-Tomis" a reality. Vincent says, "The entire team is pleased to have the project recognized as an outstanding example of the utilization of information technology." ■



*Left to Right Front: Wayne Sisk, Bill Vincent, and Ephrem Tekle  
Back: Robert Chick, Rod Cook, Steve Ramsey, and Terry Groves*

Our deepest sympathy and condolences go out to the family of Correctional Officer Fred Hyatt, who was killed in the line of duty on November 8th. Hyatt was the first TDOC correctional officer murdered in more than two decades. He had been a loyal employee of the department for nearly 18 years. Staffers at MTCX miss his warm presence and friendship.

**Remembering  
Officer  
Fred Hyatt**

A memorial service honoring Hyatt will be held at the institution on May 10th at 2:30. Special thanks go out to those of you who donated money to the Hyatt family in their time of grief. A total of \$4,600 has been collected so far, not including the donations that came in from correctional agencies across the nation. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. ■

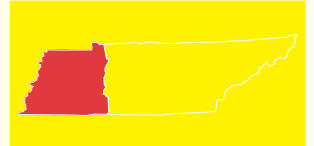


The Tennessee Correction Academy is working diligently on a project that will honor the memory of officers like Fred Hyatt, who are killed in the line of duty. A Tennessee Correctional Employee Memorial will be constructed at the Academy to serve as a permanent reminder of the difficult job correctional employees face each and every day. TCA Superintendent Mike Dutton is heading up the project, which will be funded completely through donations. A number of fundraisers have already been held across the state bringing in more than \$1,600 to date. Several other events are still in the planning stages. For information on how to donate, contact Mike Dutton at (931) 461-7100. ■

# Statewide News

## WEST TENNESSEE

**WTSP, MLCC, TPW, BMCX** Congratulations to the staff at West Tennessee State Penitentiary, Mark Luttrell Correctional Center, the Tennessee Prison for Women and Brushy Mountain Correctional Complex on a successful re-accreditation. ACA auditors spent several months last year at the institutions going over records with a fine toothed comb. Auditors say the home cooking that staffers kept feeding them didn't hurt, but overall, it was the sound management of our prisons that earned them a re-accreditation. Also, Turney Center is expected to be re-accredited at a panel hearing in August. All this proves, once again, that Tennessee has one of the best prison systems in the nation. ■



**MLCC** Thanks go out to the employees at Mark Luttrell Correctional Complex for their giving spirit. As you know Tennessee's annual Charitable Giving Campaign was held in November and December of last year. Mark Luttrell received a plaque for having the highest percentage of employee donations by an institution with less than 250 employees. Fifty-five out of 193 gave \$1,833 or 29%. ■

## MIDDLE TENNESSEE

**TCIP** Inmates and staffers at Turney Center were devastated last winter when Recreation Director Spence McClanahan died of a heart attack at age 55. He had served at the prison for more than three decades. In November, the group remembered McClanahan by re-naming the gym in his honor. "Spence," as he was known around the institution, was a huge supporter of intramural sports at Turney Center and often lobbied the community for donations to the recreation division. Last spring, Laundry Supervisor Bruce Roberts got 50 names on a petition and asked the Commissioner to dedicate the gym to McClanahan. Roberts says he spearheaded the project because, "Spence made sure the inmates had an opportunity to participate in sports, that they had the equipment, and he brought in outside teams to play. He was a good friend to the inmates." ■

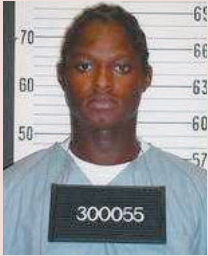


**DSNF** Lights, camera... action. The Department of Labor and Workforce Development is helping TDOC highlight the need for dedicated correctional employees. The department produces a 30-minute television show called "Let's Go to Work," which airs on major television stations across the state. This summer, an entire episode will focus on recruiting nurses and correctional officers. Taping for the show will begin at DeBerry and TPW in early May and should air sometime in August. ■

## Statewide News Continued

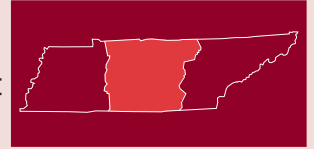
## MIDDLE TENNESSEE

**MTCX** This winter, staffers at Middle Tennessee Correctional Complex were able to reach out to young people through a 19 year-old inmate named Terrance McLaurine.



At age 12, McLaurine shot and killed a man, making him the youngest person in Tennessee ever convicted as an adult. Last fall, he transferred to MTCX from a juvenile detention center in Nashville.

Over the course of his stay at MTCX, McLaurine, who is serving a 15-year sentence, spoke candidly to students about the consequences of making bad decisions. McLaurine also wrote an essay called "Locked Up," which gained national attention after being featured on the CBS morning show. The essay is one of many compiled for a book called **Teen Ink**, which can be purchased at most major bookstores. ■



**RMSI** Some of you may recall from an earlier newsletter that employees at Northwest Correctional Complex and Riverbend Maximum Security Institution were teaming up on a project to refurbish family waiting rooms at La Bonheur Children's Hospital. Well, the fruits of their labor are starting to show. After 180 hours of hard labor, Vocational Instructor Richard Hatley's woodworking class has finished the cabinets that will go into the waiting rooms. They have since been delivered to the pediatric ward of the hospital. Thanks to everyone who worked on the project, especially staffers at NWCX, who poured their hearts and energy into making "Maggie's Project" a huge success. ■



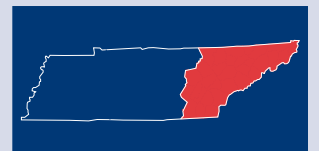
**TPW** Nashville's homeless community was a little warmer this winter... thanks to inmates at the Tennessee Prison for Women. Members of the prison's crochet class made several hundred hats and scarves that were later donated to Room in the Inn, a non-profit organization that caters to the homeless. The prison's Volunteer Coordinator Linda Knott says the weekly class gives inmates a positive outlet for their energy and a sense of accomplishment. "Many of these women are starving for interaction with someone who cares. It means a world to them to be able to give something back to the community." ■

## EAST TENNESSEE

**STRCF** Staffers at Southeast Correctional helped the local sheriff's department nab a fleeing criminal this winter. On December 22nd, the Bledsoe County Sheriff requested assistance from the prison's K-9 unit to help capture a man accused of stealing an ATV. Within an hour,



Bron Howard and his bloodhound Homer were on the scene. In drenching rain and chilly temperatures, the two set out into a wooded area of Pitts Gap in Bledsoe County and were able to establish a track on the suspect. In less than a half-hour, the suspect was successfully forced out of the woods and arrested without incident. ■



**BMCX** It's no secret that Brushy Mountain State Prison is rich in history. Last fall, the **Nashville Scene** featured many of those colorful stories in a Halloween article titled "Tales from the Old Brushy Mountain." Reporter Matt Pulle spent the afternoon with inmate James Slagle, who's been incarcerated with us for more than three decades. The story was well received in the Nashville area, and has, once again, generated historical interest in the state's oldest operating prison. ■



**NECX** Employees at Northeast Correctional Complex took home another award this year for their participation in Tennessee's Charitable Giving Campaign. They won for the most employees giving for an institution with more than 250 employees. 128 out of 492 gave \$5,976.44 or 26%. Employees at Northeast will receive a plaque along with Mark Luttrell Correctional Center. ■

## Close-up on *Cathy Posey*

Spend an hour with Assistant Commissioner Cathy Posey and you'll learn a lot! For example, you probably never knew she was one of the first state employees to get her own computer. State government has come a long way since then, and so has Cathy.

She began her career in state government as a clerk with the Department of Finance and Administration. Last month, Commissioner White promoted her to Assistant Commissioner of Administrative Services. It took 15 years for Cathy to work her way up through the ranks, but judging from her recent promotion, it paid off.



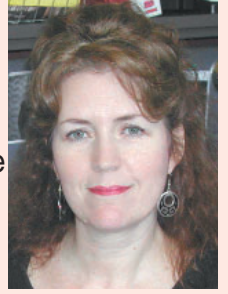
During her time with the state, Cathy has seen a lot of change. In 1985, she worked on the Special Session on Corrections, helping craft the Governor's capital budget request. A year later, she came to work for the department as a budget analyst.

In 1993 Cathy was promoted to Director of Administrative Services for

Probation and Community Corrections. It wasn't long before the Department of Youth and Development came calling. She was hired as the Director of Budget and Administrative Services, where she worked during that department's transition into the Department of Children's Services we know today.

In 2000, Cathy came back to TDOC as the Director of Budget and Fiscal Services, where she worked until her recent promotion. Commissioner White says, "It isn't very often that you meet someone who's exhibited this much dedication to their career. Cathy is to be commended. I know she is going to do a great job in her new position." ■

Lisa Warner was recently promoted to Personnel Manager, putting her in charge of disciplinary reviews, salary justification letters and class comp issues, among other things. Lisa has dedicated more than twenty years of her life to state government. She came to TDOC in 1989. Ten years later, she was promoted to personnel officer for central office. Please congratulate Lisa again when you see her. ■



Charles Beauregard is still getting settled in at his new Internal Affairs office after being named Director in March. Beauregard comes to the department with a wealth of experience. He spent more than two and a half decades with the Internal Revenue Service as an investigator and supervisor. If you're in the neighborhood, please stop by the IA office and welcome Mr. Beauregard to the department. ■



## Announcements:

### TCA Spring Conferences

**May 11th-** Knoxville, Calhoun's on the River

**May 12th-** Nashville, Maxwell House Hotel

**May 13th-** Jackson, Doubletree.

### Inmate Job Training

**May 17th-19th**

### ACA Conference

**July 30-August 4th**